

Application No. 10/023,643

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REMARKS

In the Action of December 13, 2005, Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 12-24 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,631,122 to Arunachalam et al. ("Arunachalam"). Examiner further rejected claims 4-6 and 15-17 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arunachalam in view of United States Patent No. 6,633,571 to Sakamoto et al. ("Sakamoto"). Still further, Examiner rejected claims 7, 11 and 23 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arunachalam in view of Sakamoto and United States Publication No. 2002/0131408 to Hsu et al. ("Hsu", collectively, the "Cited References"). However, Examiner indicated that claims 8-10 and 18-22 would be allowable if re-written to incorporate the features of their base claim and intervening claims, and are corrected to address indefiniteness objections.

In this Response, Applicant amends claims 1 and 12 to incorporate all substantive features of claims 8 and 20, respectively. The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from either claim 1 or 12, and certain of such claims are amended for antecedent and consistency with the respective base independent claim. Claims 8 and 20 are herein cancelled.

Since the allowable subject matter of old allowable claims 8 and 20 are incorporated into the base independent claims, Applicant traverses all rejections under 35 USC 102 and 103, and submits that all of claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-23 are allowable over the Cited References.

Examiner further rejected claims 3-11 and 14-23 on the basis that such claims are indefinite under 35 USC 112. Claims 8 and 20 are herein cancelled, thus rendering the rejection of such claims moot. The remaining claims have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for all claimed features, and in view of such amendments, Applicant submits that the rejection under 35 USC 112 is traversed.

New claims 24 and 25 are added relating to a method of formatting a MPLS packet and routing ATM traffic over a MPLS network according to the invention. It is submitted that the new

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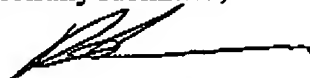
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claims provide subject matter in line with subject matter provided in the previously disclosed claims.

A clerical correction is provided herein in the specification at paragraph [0065].

No new subject matter is provided with the present amendments. In view of the above remarks, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits that this application be permitted to proceed to allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss this case further, if necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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